

Item: _____
Fiscal Impact: \$ 35,000.00
Funding Source: Grant and seized funds
Account #: 10-6511-40480-00000-0000
Budget Opening Required: No

ISSUE:

A resolution authorizing the Police Department to purchase an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) System from PIPS Technology.

SYNOPSIS:

ALPR technology will be utilized by the Police Department to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in enforcement and intelligence functions. It can accurately identify and process information obtained from license plates much faster than multiple officers could.

The funds for purchasing this system have already been identified and authorized for this use by the City Manager.

BACKGROUND:

Formal bidding will not be required for this purchase because this vendor, PIPS Technology, provides the only product that effectively communicates with the State and NICB Databases in which information will be transmitted to and from for use in this system. It is essential for the success of this tool to be able to work interactively with the State Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and other users of this technology. All of the contacts the Police Department has made while researching this technology have emphasized PIPS Technology's product as the standard used in the state and their hardware and software is proprietary.

ALPR technology is based on the ability of a system to utilize cameras and computer hardware to locate, recognize, and "read" license plates as the police car passes by other vehicles. This system has been tested and proven reliable in daytime and nighttime applications with a 92% accuracy of interpretation of license plates at cross speeds of up to 110 mph. The data obtained by this hardware is immediately and wirelessly transmitted to a database that has the ability to quickly alert the operator (always a sworn police officer) of any of the search criteria the officer has designated. This includes stolen vehicles, vehicles suspected of being occupied by wanted persons, suspect vehicles involved in criminal activity, missing person's vehicles, as well as traffic violations such as expired or revoked registrations, uninsured vehicles, etc. It is important to note that before any enforcement action is commenced, the police officer is able to confirm with a photograph of the actual plate the accuracy of the systems information. The enforcement action is then initiated and conducted by a police officer.

This system is also very useful in the ability to use historical data, specifically a window of time in which data is obtained and stored, to research where a vehicle may have been if it was identified by the ALPR.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends approval of the Resolution authorizing the police department to expend up to \$35,000.00 to purchase a PIPS Technology ALPR and equip an existing vehicle with this system.

SUBMITTED BY:

T. Buzz Nielsen, Chief of Police